

What is claimed is:

1. A computer system comprising:
 - a predetermined switch for instructing a system power source to be turned on and an application program to be executed;
 - a power switch for instructing said system power source to be turned on;
 - 5 status memory for detecting the depression of said predetermined switch to store a status signal indicative of the detection result;
 - a mask circuit for outputting an ON signal in a state that said system power source is turned off and no ON signal in a state that said system power source is turned on in response to the depression of said predetermined switch;
 - 10 a power control circuit for turning on said system power source in response to an operation of said power switch and said ON signal:
 - a processor, which operates by using said system power source, for accessing said status signal stored in said status memory in response to the start of the supply of power from said system power source so as to start up a predetermined application program
 - 15 when said status signal indicates said predetermined switch has been operated: and
 - a controller, which operates by using the system power source, for detecting the depression of said predetermined switch to output a signal for instructing said processor to start up said predetermined application program, whereby making it possible to turn on said system power source and start up said predetermined application program in
 - 20 response to the operation of said predetermined switch.
2. The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined switch outputs a signal with a predetermined level by the operation, and said status memory stores the status signal indicating the level of the signal output by said predetermined switch at the time when power supply from said system power source is started.
 3. The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said controller

TECHNICAL DRAWING

comprising:

a switch circuit, which operates by using the system power source, for detecting the depression of said predetermined switch to output a predetermined switch operation signal; and

a keyboard controller for detecting said switch operation signal to output an interrupt signal for instructing said processor to start up said predetermined application program.

4. The computer system according to claim 1, wherein said processor clears the content stored in said status memory after starting up said predetermined application program.

5. A computer system comprising:

a predetermined key for instructing a system power source to be turned on and an application program to be executed;

a power control circuit for turning on the system power source when said 5 predetermined key is depressed in a state that said system power source is in an OFF state; and

a processor, which operates by using the system power source, for executing an application program corresponding to said specific key when said specific key is depressed.

6. The computer system according to claim 5, further comprising status memory for storing the depression of said predetermined key, wherein said processor accesses to the content stored in said status memory, determines whether or not said system power source is turned on by the depression of said predetermined key, and executes said 5 application program corresponding to said predetermined key when it is determined that said system power source is turned on by the depression of said predetermined key.

7. A keyboard controller control system according to claim 5, wherein said processor starts up said application corresponding to said predetermined key and clears

TOKYO 2001.10.4. 15:37:37

the content stored in said status memory when said system power source is turned on by the depression of said predetermined key.

8. The computer system according to claim 5 wherein said processor starts up said predetermined application when said predetermined key is depressed for a time period over which said system power source is turned on.

9. The computer system according to claim 5, further comprising a power circuit; and wherein said power control circuit detects the depression state of said predetermined key to turn on said system power source by supplying a trigger signal to said power circuit when detecting the depression of the corresponding specific key.